

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the examination of the present application that is evidenced by the Official Action of December 3, 2004. Applicants also appreciate the indication that Claims 31-34 are allowed and Claims 4-6, 8-9, 13-20, 23-30 and 36-38 recite allowable subject matter. In response to the Official Action, Claims 10-12, 21-22 and 35 have been canceled. Dependent Claims 4, 8, 19, 23, 29 and 36 have also been rewritten independent form, which means that Claims 4, 8, 13-20, 23-30 and 36-38 are now in condition for allowance.

Thus, the sole outstanding issues are the patentability of Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,321,652 to Ito and the objections to the specification.

Objections to the Specification:

To address the outstanding objections to the specification, Applicants have provided a substitute abstract within the word limit of 50 to 150 words and have corrected page 13 of the specification, as requested by the Examiner. However, Applicants submit that no modifications to FIG. 3 are necessary. As illustrated by FIG. 3, a leading edge of the signal WR occurs in-sync with a high-to-low transition of the R/W₁ signal and a leading edge of the address match signal (ADDRESS MATCH) occurs in-sync with a read address transition (e.g., A2 switching to A1). However, the "very large time delay" identified by the Examiner in paragraph 5 of the Official Action does not preclude synchronized relationships between the signals. As will be understood by those skilled in the art, one signal can be synchronized with another signal even if the leading edges of these signals are separated by a long delay. For example, providing an input clock signal to a long delay line will result in an output clock signal that is synchronized with the input clock signal, yet separated in time by a long delay. Moreover, the timing diagram of FIG. 3 uses a time scale (x-axis) that provides ample space to clearly illustrate the various switching events illustrated by the various signals and need not be to scale. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to FIG. 3.

Independent Claim 1 is Patentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,321,652 to Ito

Applicants acknowledge that FIGS. 2 and 6 of Ito illustrate a data selector DSL, which is responsive to a detection signal "am". When the detection signal "am" is set to a logic 1 value by an address comparator (AC), the data selector DSL routes data (da0-dan) from a data buffer A (DBA) to a data buffer B (DBB). However, when the detection signal "am" is set to a logic 0 value by the address comparator, the data selector DSL routes data (dr0-drn) from the read amplifier B (RAB) to the data buffer B. Thus, in Ito, the detection signal "am" merely determines which data (data from data buffer A or data from read amplifier B) is routed to the data buffer B.

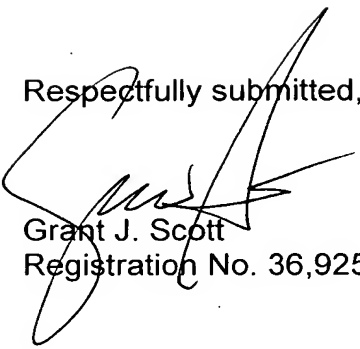
However, Ito provides absolutely no disclosure or suggestion of any "overwriting" of any data within a pulsed sense amplifier, as recited by independent Claim 1. For example, the data (dr0-drn) in the read amplifier B (RAB) in FIG. 2 of Ito is not overwritten with any of the data (da0-dan) from the data buffer B. Instead, the data selector DSL merely selects data from one device or another device in response to a detection signal "am". Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 is patentable over Ito. Dependent Claims 5-6 and are also independently patentable, as previously recognized by the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have addressed each of the outstanding issues raised in the first Official Action and have shown that Claim 1 is patentable over Ito. Applicants have also rewritten many of the allowable dependent claims into independent form to place them in condition for allowance and have amended the specification. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

In re: Frank Matthews et al.
Serial No.: 10/025,093
Filed: December 18, 2001
Page 16

Respectfully submitted,

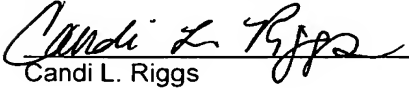


Grant J. Scott
Registration No. 36,925

USPTO Customer No. 20792
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec
Post Office Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: 919/854-1400
Facsimile: 919/854-1401

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 14, 2004.



Candi L. Riggs

#410802